

# CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

The Santa Cruz County Environmental Health Department has reviewed the project described below and has determined that it is exempt from the provisions of CEQA as specified in Sections 15061 - 15332 of CEQA for the reason(s) which have been specified in this document.

Application Number: N/A

Application Title: Installation of Groundwater Monitoring Wells

Assessor Parcel Number: See below

Project Location:

1. Vine Hill School MW: northern portion of APN 023-101-02 alongside Scotts Valley Drive
2. Bean Creek Downstream of Mackenzie Creek MW: west of Bean Creek Road (37.068, -122.016)
3. Ruins Creek MW: west of Nelson Road (37.068, -122.025)
4. Nelson Road / Lockhart Gulch MW: north side of Nelson Road (37.058, -122.033)
5. Bahr Drive MW: north of Bahr Drive (37.065, -122.065)
6. Quail Hollow Road MW: APN 077-361-03 north of Quail Hollow Road
7. Love Creek MW: west of Love Creek Road (37.104, -122.086)
8. Former Geyer Quarry MW: APN 070-261-56 north of Mount Hermon Road

**Project Description:** Installation of 8 monitoring wells throughout the Santa Margarita Groundwater Basin boundary to collect data concerning the groundwater elevations at strategic locations. These data will inform resource protection under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, particularly in evaluating the connection between surface water and groundwater.

**Person or Agency Proposing Project:** Santa Margarita Groundwater Agency submitted by Sierra Ryan

**Contact Phone Number:** (831) 454-3133

- A.  The proposed activity is not a project under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378.
- B.  The proposed activity is not subject to CEQA as specified under CEQA Guidelines Section 15060 (c).
- C.  **Ministerial Project** involving only the use of fixed standards or objective measurements without personal judgment.
- D.  **Statutory Exemption** other than a Ministerial Project (CEQA Guidelines Section 15260 to 15285).
- E.  **Categorical Exemption**

Specify type: 15306. INFORMATION COLLECTION Class 6

**F. Reasons why the project is exempt:**

1. Class 6 Categorical Exemption consists of basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. These may be strictly for information gathering purposes, or as part of a study leading to an action which a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded. This project is being done for the purpose of data collection to evaluate and manage an environmental resource by a public agency, and therefore qualifies under this exemption.
2. Ministerial Project: Section 21080 of the Public Resources Code exempts from the application of CEQA those projects over which public agencies exercise only ministerial authority. Wells such as these require only a ministerial well permit from the County.

In addition, none of the conditions described in Section 15300.2 apply to this project.



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Sierra Ryan, Water Resources Manager

Date: 5/10/2022